

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MUSCAT 00735 080949Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----081315Z 084106 /40

R 080625Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 710  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T MUSCAT 0735

EXDIS

LONDON ALSO FOR ASST. SECRETARY ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR MU US  
SUBJECT: MASIRAH ISLAND

REF: (A) MUSCAT 0723, (B) STATE 100463, (C) MUSCAT 0644,  
(D) STATE 062009

1. FOREIGN MINISTER ZAWAWI ASKED TO SEE ME ON HOUR'S NOTICE MAY 7. HE TOLD ME HIS RETURN FROM LONDON WAS ADVANCED SEVERAL DAYS BECAUSE OF URGENT BUSINESS RELATED TO SULTAN'S UPCOMING OFFICIAL VISITS TO RIYADH, CAIRO AND AMMAN (REPORTED SEPTTEL).
2. ZAWAWI SAID UNDERSECRETARY AL-ALAWI HAD TOLD HIM OF OUR MAY 4 DISCUSSION. ZAWAWI CONFIRMED HIS INTENTION TO PRESENT EMBASSY OFFICIAL NOTE OR AIDE MEMOIRE SHORTLY REGARDING MASIRAH. HE SAID IT WILL CONTAIN FOLLOWING POINTS:
  - A. SOAF WISHES OCCASIONAL USN VISITS TO MASIRAH BE HELD AT MAXIMUM OF SIX QUARTERLY AT LEAST FOR FIRST TWO OR THREE MONTHS. THIS IS BECAUSE OF HEAVY WORKLOAD GETTING MASIRAH AIRFIELD PROPERLY ACTIVATED AS A SOAF FACILITY.

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- B. REGARDING OUR LIST OF DESIRABLE, AS AGAINST ESSENTIAL, P-3 SUPPORT FACILITIES, SOAF LACKS ELECTRICAL GROUND POWER UNIT AND/OR GROUND ENGINE AIRSTART UNIT AT MASIRAH. IT MAY SOON ACQUIRE IT, OR THEM. MEANWHILE SUCH UNIT OR UNITS ARE AVAILABLE AT SEEB AIRPORT NEAR MUSCAT AND COULD BE FLOWN TO MASIRAH IF AND WHEN NEEDED.

C. THERE WILL BE NO PROBLEM WITH OUR OTHER LOGISTIC REQUIREMENTS (REFUELING, OVERNIGHT BILLETING, AIRCRAFT SECURITY, FILING AND WEATHER BRIEFING FACILITIES, AND MESSING FACILITIES).

3. AFTER THEN BRIEFLY SHUFFLING THROUGH A DOCUMENT ON HIS DESK, ZAWAWI ADDED THAT, IN ADDITION, SOAF AND DEFENSE MINISTRY ASK FOR A US GRANT-IN-AID OF R.O. 2 MILLION (DOLS 5.8 MILLION) ANNUALLY TOWARD THEIR ADMINISTRATION OF PILOT TRAINING SCHOOL AND REGULAR AIRFIELD OPERATIONS ON MASIRAH.

4. I SAID I WOULD REPORT ALL THIS TO WASHINGTON. IN MEANTIME, DCM SIZER, WHO WOULD BE IN CHARGE OF EMBASSY IN MY ABSENCE AND IS ENTIRELY FAMILIAR WITH MASIRAH SUBJECT, WOULD AWAIT OMANGOV NOTE OR AIDE MEMOIRE. NOTING THAT OUR RESPONSE TO PARA 3 ABOVE MIGHT TAKE SOME TIME, I ASKED HOW OMANGOV MIGHT VIEW POSSIBILITY OF RENEWAL OF OUR P-3 VISITS IN THE INTERIM. ZAWAWI SAID THIS WOULD BE WELCOMED.

5. BY WAY OF APOLOGY, ZAWAWI SAID HE INTENDED CONVEY OMANGOV RESPONSE TO ME FORTNIGHT AGO (REF C) BUT INTENTION MISFIRED BECAUSE HIS GOUT SUDDENLY AND PAINFULLY ACTED UP APRIL 21 THUS DELAYING AN IN-HOUSE DISCUSSION WITH BENNETT, LONDON AND BROWNING. THAT SESSION, A NECESSARY PRELIMINARY TO SEEING ME, WAS PERFORCE DELAYED UNTIL THEIR RECENT AIR DEFENSE MEETINGS TOGETHER IN UK.

6. COMMENT: I THINK WE SHOULD NOT REACT PREMATURELY TO THIS ZAWAWI PRESENTATION BUT AWAIT THE PAPER HE PROMISED TO SEE EXACTLY HOW OMANIS ARE CASTING THEIR RESPONSE. ALSO RECOMMEND  
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HOLDING UP, AT LEAST UNTIL MY HOPED-FOR DISCUSSION WITH ASST. SECRETARY ATHERTON MAY 10, OUR PROPOSED REQUEST TO OMANGOV FOR SECOND QUARTER VISITS (REF B PARA 4). END COMMENT.  
WOLLE

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009